

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/681,373	FUJIEDA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	DANIEL G. MARIAM	2624

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to a telephone interv. dated Jan. 4, 2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/11/04 & 2/09/06
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/4/2007
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.


 DANIEL G. MARIAM
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William T. Ellis (Reg. No. 26,874) on January 4, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

At line 3, after the limitation "image" insert "having an edge direction"

At line 5, after the limitation "verified" insert "based on verification conditions"

At line 8, delete the first occurrence of "the" and replace it with "a"

At line 8, delete the limitation "from" and replace it with "of"

Amend claim 8 as follows:

At line 3, after the limitation "image" insert "having an edge direction"

At line 5, after the limitation "verified" insert "based on verification conditions"

At line 8, delete the first occurrence of "the" and replace it with "a"

Amend claim 10 as follows:

At line 8, after the limitation "image" insert "having an edge direction"

At line 10, after the limitation "verified" insert "based on verification conditions"

At line 12, delete "the" and replace it with "a"

At line 17, delete the limitation "extrcted" and replace it with "extracted"

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-19 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: upon acquisition of a gray-scale image, the instant invention extracts edge pixels of the image having an edge direction, and while sequentially considering the extracted edge pixels, an edge pixel verified based on verification conditions to have a density gradient direction opposite to the edge pixel under consideration is searched for within a predetermined range in a direction orthogonal to the edge direction of the edge pixel under consideration. Thereafter, the instant invention sets a line segment parallel to the edge direction of the edge pixel under consideration, which passes through a predetermined position from the extracted edge pixel to the edge pixel under consideration, and displays an image indicating the result of setting the line segment when there is no edge pixels to be considered. These elements in combination with other elements of the claims are not disclosed or fairly suggested by any of the prior art of record.

Comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent Numbers: 5081689, 6625303, 6885771, and 7116823.

Art Unit: 2624

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL G. MARIAM whose telephone number is 571-272-7394. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-4:30) FIRST FRIDAY OFF.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MATTHEW BELLA can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DANIEL G MARIAM
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2624

January 4, 2007